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March 2006 Minutes

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2006 MEETING

In attendance: Jane Howard, Joey Glushko, Bettie Connors, Andrew Fischer, Clare Gordon, Gordon Jamieson, Elizabeth Karpati, Leslie Mayer, Sherry Miller.

- The **minutes** of the January and February meetings were accepted as presented.
- Clare Gordon was introduced as the new Diversity Task Group representative replacing the late Patricia Watson.

Task Group Reports:

- **Diversity:** The Diversity Director of Raytheon is doing a practicum to obtain a “diversity practitioner certificate.” He wants to do a survey (on paper or by phone) of the Standing Committee and the Diversity Task Group, and in return he would be willing to help the latter do a survey in Arlington. The Standing Committee raised no objection.
- **Environment: Reservoir:** The landscaping plan for the dam area is in progress, and DPW has the money needed for the 100 trees required. Planting is planned for the fall after a public meeting to present the landscaping plan.
Spy Pond: The March meeting will feature a video on the preservation of “Lost Pond” in Brookline/Newton. Plans for the work on the Rt. 2 path on May 13 are well under way. A letter has just been sent to all abutters, inviting them to participate.
- **Fiscal Resources:** The spreadsheet for calculating where one’s taxes go will soon be up on the web. The task group wants to attend the meetings of the committee studying fiscal reorganization. It proposed inviting representatives of the MBTA and MWRA to Town Meeting to answer questions, but the Selectmen want to hold periodic public meetings for this purpose instead. The *Arlington Advocate* is running an interesting series on benchmarking Arlington vs. other communities, but the ones it is using for comparison are not the same ones as in the recent “Peer Communities” study.

Warrant Articles:

- **#15, Reports from the Board of Assessors:** The Selectmen proved opposed to it, so Fiscal Resources will propose a resolution instead, which would ask rather than require them to provide the desired information. Their website has already started to carry brief minutes.
- **#24, Funding for Water Bodies,** will be presented to the Fin Com on March 22. In support of this article there will be an exhibit in Town Hall during the month of May, featuring the Town’s water bodies.

Other matters:

- **Census survey:** Over 3100 responses have been received; 1300 have been given out to volunteers to be entered; more volunteers are needed.
- **Coming events:** Candidates’ Night March 23; Warrant Review April 18; State of the Town April 24. Plans are set or well under way. Volunteers are needed to supply refreshments for all three events.
- **Student Government Day** on April 27 is looking for a representative from Vision 2020 to participate.